THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRJ S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news report.

(b) No, Sir. As per information of Registrar General of India, 1.4 and 9.9 per cent of the deaths in the age group of 0 to 1 and 1 to 4 respectively are caused by Gastroenterhies.

(c) To check the incidence of diarrhoea! deaths oral rehydration therapy is being promoted as preventive measures for dehydration through health educational programme of the community and training of all health workers. Oral rehydration salts are being supplied to the village heatlh guides and sub-centres In addition an intensive programme for promotion of oral rehydration therapy is being launched during the current plan period.

Policy regarding allotment of book stalls

130. SHRI PARVATHANENl UPENDRA; Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's present Policy regardin ^allotment of book stalls on the platforms of various railway stations in the country;

(b) what is present numbei of book stall contracts awarded to the unemployed graduates by the railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that M|s .A. H. Wheeler and Company Pvt. Ltd., are enjoying a monopoly in railway book stall business on 8 zones out of 9 zones of Railways wilhout any break;

(d) whether it is a fact that the entire contract of. M|s. A. H. Wheeler and Company for sole selling rights on book stalls in platforms has been renewed for a period of 9 years from the Ist January, 1985 to 31st December, 1993; and

(e) Il so. what are the reasons therefor particularly for ignoring the interests of unemployed graduates?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) As pe_r extent instructions, allotment of new book stalls have been reserved for Unemployed. Graduates, their partnership Firms, Associations, etc. and Cooperative Societies of actual Workers & Vendors except at stations|Platfbrms where the existing contractor has the sole selling right under the agreement.

(b) Information is being collected and wiH be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) M|s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. are not having a monopoly. But they have the sole selling rights at those stations which have been specified in their agreements with eight Zonal Railways. Even at those specified stations, the Railways can permit opening of bookstalls by other eligible persons on new platforms (excepting those replaced due to gauge conversion) constructed on|or after 1-1-1976 and the Railways can also permit saia of books etc. published by non-profit making and philanthropic institutions and Government Publications.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) The agreements was renewed keeping in view their performance. The interests of unemployed graduates have not been ignored as explained in reply to part (a) of the Question.

New food packet scheme in trains

131. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: WiH the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains which have been covered by the new food packet-scheme; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to introduce the scheme in other trains?

THF. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Service of food in disposable aluminium casseroles has already been introduced on 21 pairs of trains.

(b) it has been decided to introduce this service in 9 more pairs of trains.